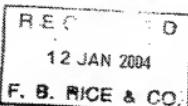


## PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the:  
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

To:

F B Rice & Co  
605 Darling Street  
BALMAIN NSW 2041



PCT

WRITTEN OPINION  
(PCT Rule 66)

Applicant's or agent's file reference  
115066/BAL

Date of mailing  
(day/month/year)  
- 9 JAN 2004

REPLY DUE within TWO MONTHS  
from the above date of mailing

International Application No.  
PCT/AU2003/01004

International Filing Date (day/month/year)  
8 August 2003

Priority Date (day/month/year)  
9 August 2002

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC

Int. Cl. A61F 11/00, A61B 17/56

Applicant

COCHLEAR LIMITED et al

1. This written opinion is the first drawn by this International Preliminary Examining Authority.

2. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- I  Basis of the opinion
- I  Priority
- II  Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV  Lack of unity of invention
- V  Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI  Certain documents cited
- VII  Certain defects in the international application
- VIII  Certain observations on the international application

3. The FINAL DATE by which the international preliminary examination report must be established according to Rule 69.2 is:  
9 December 2004

4. The applicant is hereby invited to reply to this opinion.

When? See the Reply Due date indicated above. However, the Australian Patent Office will not establish the Report before the earlier of (i) a response being filed, or (ii) one month before the Final Date by which the international preliminary examination report must be established. The Report will take into account any response (including amendments) filed before the Report is established. If no response is filed 1 month before the Final Date, the international preliminary examination report will be established on the basis of this opinion.

Applicants wishing to have the benefit of a further opinion (if needed) before the report is established should ensure that a response is filed at least 3 months before the Final Date by which the international preliminary examination report must be established.

How? By submitting a written reply, accompanied, where appropriate, by amendments, according to Rule 66.3.  
For the form and the language of the amendments, see Rules 66.8 and 66.9.

Also For an additional opportunity to submit amendments, see Rule 66.4.  
For the examiner's obligation to consider amendments and/or arguments, see Rule 66.4(b).  
For an informal communication with the examiner, see Rule 66.6.

Name and mailing address of the IPEA/AU

AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE  
PO BOX 200, WOODY POINT 2606, AUSTRALIA  
E-mail address: pect@ipaustralia.gov.au  
Fax/fax No. (02) 6285 3929

Authorized Officer

SUE THOMAS

Telephone No. (02) 6283 2454

## WRITTEN OPINION

International application No.

PCT/AU2003/01004

I. Basis of the opinion	
1. With regard to the elements of the international application: <sup>*</sup>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the international application as originally filed.	
<input type="checkbox"/> the description, pages , as originally filed, pages , filed with the demand, pages , received on with the letter of	
<input type="checkbox"/> the claims, pages , as originally filed, pages , as amended under Article 19, pages , filed with the demand, pages , received on with the letter of	
<input type="checkbox"/> the drawings, pages , as originally filed, pages , filed with the demand, pages , received on with the letter of	
<input type="checkbox"/> the sequence listing part of the description: pages , as originally filed pages , filed with the demand pages , received on with the letter of	
2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item. These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language which is:	
<input type="checkbox"/> the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)). <input type="checkbox"/> the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)). <input type="checkbox"/> the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).	
3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the written opinion was drawn on the basis of the sequence listing:	
<input type="checkbox"/> contained in the international application in printed form. <input type="checkbox"/> filed together with the international application in computer readable form. <input type="checkbox"/> furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form. <input type="checkbox"/> furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form. <input type="checkbox"/> The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished. <input type="checkbox"/> The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.	
4. <input type="checkbox"/> The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:	
<input type="checkbox"/> the description, pages <input type="checkbox"/> the claims, Nos. <input type="checkbox"/> the drawings, sheets/fig.	
5. <input type="checkbox"/> This opinion has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).	

\* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this opinion as "originally filed".

## WRITTEN OPINION

International application No.  
PCT/AU2003/01004

V. Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement		
1. Statement		
Novelty (N)	Claims 12-14, 17, 20-22	YES
	Claims 1-11, 15, 16, 18, 19, 23-25	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	YES
	Claims 1-25	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims 1-25	YES
	Claims	NO
2. Citations and explanations		
The following documents identified in the International Search Report have been considered for the purposes of this report:		
D1....US 5,906,635		
D2....US 6,427,986		
<u>Novelty (N) Claims 1-11, 15, 16, 18, 19, 23-25</u>		
Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 18, 23: D1 discloses an implantable hearing aid device comprising a hermetically sealed component (68) mounted by screws extending through tabs (70) (figures 7, 8 and 9 and column 8 lines 60 to 62). Claims 1-3, 5-9, 15, 16, 19, 23-25: D2 discloses an intracranial neurostimulator comprising a control module (620) with flexible flange (632) mounted into cranium by bone screws (623) (column 35 lines 5 to 16)		
<u>Inventive Step (IS) Claims 1-25</u>		
Claims 1-11, 15, 16, 18, 19, 23-25 are not novel and therefore also lack inventive step.		
Claims 12-14, 17, 20-22: the features of these claims would be considered obvious to a PSA and consequently lack inventive step.		